

FROM SHERMAN'S ARMY.  
RAPID PROGRESS OF HIS TROOPS  
THEY ARE NEARLY UP TO NORTH CAROLINA  
CHARLESTON ENTIRELY ISOLATED.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 16, 1865.  
Richmond papers of the 15th indicate that Sherman's advanced cavalry are actually as far north as Florence, the second important railroad junction on the borders of North Carolina.

They also announce all telegraphic and railroad communication with Charleston destroyed, thus showing that Sherman's left column must have struck the North-Eastern Railroad running from Charleston to Florence. The Richmond papers of the 14th, received today, show that the question of raising slaves has been temporarily laid aside in the Rebel Congress.

[Florence is in the Darlington District of South Carolina, about thirty-five miles from the North Carolina border. It is the point of junction of three railroad lines—the North-Eastern, the Wilmington and Manchester, and the Cheraw and Darlington.]

Movements of Gen. Sherman.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 16, 1865.  
Major Stetland, Chief of Artillery of the Fifteenth Corps of Gen. Sherman's Army, has arrived here, bringing dispatches to the Government. He says Gen. Sherman's plans are not generally known in his own army, although he has in entire confidence.

It was General Blair's division which defeated the enemy at River's Bluff, the soldiers waiting to their waists to make the attack.

It is clear that Sherman is moving large columns to the right and left, or east and west, of Branchville. A little to the westward of that point is a fine, high, fertile and productive section of country, easily traversed, with good roads, and abounding in supplies. If he is aiming at Columbia he will traverse the districts of Orangeburg and Richland—a region near passed in the whole land for wealth and abundance.

Entire Rebel News.

We have Richmond papers of Tuesday, 14th inst., from which we select the following items:  
THE WAR NEWS.

The Dispatch has the following concerning Sherman's movements:  
IN SOUTH CAROLINA—OFFICIAL DISPATCH FROM GEN. BARDEE.

The military operations now going on in South Carolina are of the first importance to our cause, and naturally engage the attention of our people to the extension of movements reported to be taking place elsewhere.

Sherman has run through Georgia without meeting with any obstruction, and it is expected, if he is to be checked at all, it must be done quickly. It is only within the past week that his movement against Branchville was clearly developed. Previous to that time it was not known certainly that he would not concentrate against Augusta or Charleston. It is now reported by telegraph that he has a column moving on Augusta, but this must be received as an unconfirmed rumor. We cannot contradict it, though, at the same time, we do not know that it is true.

For the present all communication with Augusta is cut off, and we do not know what is going on there or in that neighborhood. As concerns matters at Charleston and in the direction of Columbia, our information is more definite. The enemy, with a force of 3,000 men, landed at Grapeland, on James Island, last Friday, and drove in our pickets. Some skirmishing followed, but there was no general engagement. Grapeland is on the Stono River, a mile south-west of Charleston, and the Ashley River, a mile south, lies between it and the city. This demonstration of the enemy is believed to be a ruse.

The following dispatch, received late Sunday night, is the official report of this affair. It contains also other interesting intelligence:

CHARLESTON, February 11, 1865.

"To Gen. S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General:  
The enemy, last evening, drove in our pickets on James Island. The lines have been reestablished to-day. The enemy are still in strong force on the island, and are endeavoring to make a demonstration. There is an increase today of eighteen steamers off the bar. A large attack made to night upon Battery Tompkins was repulsed.

"W. J. HARVEY, Lieut. Gen."

Since the receipt of the above we are without advice from Charleston.

On Saturday a column of Sherman's infantry and cavalry crossed the Edisto to the west of and above Branchville, and advanced on the Columbia Branch Railroad. Our troops at Branchville withdrew toward Columbia. According to the latest official accounts, received yesterday, the enemy were at Orangeburg, some twenty miles north of Branchville, and on the road to Columbia.

During our retreat there has been continual skirmishing with the enemy, but no general engagement. It was said yesterday that Beauregard intended to make an attack; but we think, from present indications, it is more likely he will fall back beyond the Santee and defend the line of that river. He is said to have an adequate force for either an offensive or defensive policy, whichever he may find it expedient to adopt. Columbia is on the right flank of the Santee, about fifty miles west of north of Orangeburg.

The Engineer says:

Our latest information by mail from South Carolina is to the effect—Thursday last—when rumors of all kinds were rife in Richmond respecting Sherman's movements. On that day the most reliable intelligence that could be obtained, says *The Columbia Guardian*, was that Sherman's advance was about seven miles from Midway. The position then occupied by the enemy was about twenty miles from Branchville. The same paper continues:

The alarm respecting the obstruction to travel between this place and the West is, therefore, so far as the past season's rumors are concerned, needless. Whatever restriction has been placed upon travel in that direction was the result of a wise military policy, judiciously in the eyes of our military authorities. Sherman's plans have not been sufficiently developed, as yet, to enable the formation of an opinion as to whether his immediate destination is Columbia. Any rumor, in the eyes of all Yankees, commensurate for any loss which might accrue to the Federal forces in obtaining it, because of its public, heroic and defiant resistance, successfully maintained against the most determined and elaborate efforts known to history, in their hands, and they would naturally suppose that the principal channel of communication with the South was stopped up, to say nothing of the necessity of removing Government establishments and evacuating to a certain extent necessary in the maintenance of the war. Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, is a most tempting prize, and would probably excite the energies of a man like General Sherman.

The following is from *The Examiner*:

The statement that Sherman's forces had probably cut the Augusta branch of the South Carolina Railroad at different points west of Branchville is borne out by late Charleston papers, which state that the Yankees had reached and cut the road referred to at three points, namely: Midway, Blackville and Barbours.

Branchville is about midway between the three cities, Charleston, Augusta and Columbia, and is the point at which the roads leading to Columbia and Augusta separate.

The distance from Charleston to Columbia is one hundred and thirty miles, from Charleston to Augusta one hundred and thirty-seven miles, and from Columbia to Augusta via Branchville, one hundred and forty-three miles. The distance from Branchville to Charleston is sixty-two miles, from Branchville to Columbia

FROM NORTH CAROLINA.  
The New Movement Against Wilmington  
—A Brilliant Dash—The Advance Upon the Peninsula—Casualties.  
From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1865. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

Fort Fisher, N. C., Feb. 11, 1865.

To-day has witnessed the most important movement since the capture of Fort Fisher.

I presume it is no longer a secret that Major-General J. M. Schofield, with an important command, has been transferred, in an incredibly short space of time, from the theater of his late brilliant and successful campaign before Nashville, to this place, and in cooperation with Gen. Terry's force, is now to operate against Wilmington.

Not an hour, day or night, has been lost since the arrival of Gen. Schofield in landing the troops, and to-day, the first pleasant one for more than a week, he ordered a reconnaissance in force to ascertain the precise position and strength of the enemy.

The troops employed have been three already in position in front of the enemy, viz: the colored troops of Gen. Paine on the left, and those of Gen. Ames, commanding the Second Division, on the center and right of the line. The newly arrived troops have held the reserve. There has been active skirmishing from an early hour in the forenoon until near sunset. Col. Daggett commanded the Second Brigade on the right.

The naval vessels, both on the ocean side and in Cape Fear River, have steadily cooperated by shelling the enemy's line, and also firing occasionally upon Fort Anderson—the Rebel work on the West side of Cape Fear River, which is nearly opposite to and covers the line of Gen. Hoke in our front.

On the right Gen. Ames's troops, the 34th New Hampshire, of Col. Daggett's Brigade, taking the lead, advanced and charged the first line of the Rebel rifle-pits, capturing about sixty prisoners. This brilliant dash was executed by Capt. Trickey, who led his company into the Rebel works through a dense thicket and swampy piece of ground, surprising and completely cutting them off from the rest of their command, and compelling them to surrender.

This was the chief success of the day's operations. The enemy soon massed his forces on our right, and Gen. Ames's Brigade was sent to that part of the line, where Gen. Terry, with Gen. Cor, directed operations.

The principal casualties occurred among the officers and men of the Colored regiments. These troops behaved bravely and secured the respect and admiration of all who witnessed their steadiness and courage. They had some fifty men wounded. One officer, Lieut. Edward Fields, Co. A, Sixth United States Colored Troops, killed, and six officers wounded—two severely.

Twelve or fifteen of their number were killed on the field. The names of the killed I have not been able to obtain, but will send them as soon as possible. Capt. Scott, late of Col. Pennypacker's staff, is also among the killed, a brave and most excellent officer.

THE REBEL POSITION.

The formation and character of the ground, combined with labor and engineering skill, have made the Rebel position near to impregnable. Their right rests on Cape Fear River, and consists of a breastwork ten feet in height, with a ditch and abatis in front.

The portion of the line runs in a south-west and north-east direction, along a ridge of elevated land for half a mile, and then still further elevated to the left, and traverses a region of swamps and almost impenetrable thickets, until it reaches Myrtle Sound on the ocean side. In front they are protected from observation by this dense undergrowth or chopwood, which no body of troops can penetrate, much less charge through the face of a deadly fire. Having advanced our line, Gen. Ames and Gen. Paine intrenched along their front, and will wait to see what to-morrow will bring forth.

The object of the reconnaissance was accomplished. The wounded were all carefully attended to and removed to the base hospital, from which they will be sent by steamer to Fortress Monroe at once. Dr. Barnes, the Medical Director of the army, deserves great praise for his indefatigable labors for the care of the wounded. He is ably assisted by an excellent corps of surgeons.

Mr. E. W. Foster, the Sanitary Agent, assisted by Mr. Adams, has been of great service to the wounded, being personally present on the field and in the hospitals with his supplies of clothing and other necessary comforts at the time they were most needed. The men who intrude this excellent clarity know nothing of what they speak. Its praise is the theme of all good and conscientious officers, soldiers and surgeons of the army.

After night had closed over the scene, and our troops had retired to their camps, the enemy opened his batteries from Fort Anderson, and kept up a vigorous shelling for three-quarters of an hour. Two or three of our men only were wounded by their shells.

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Capt. Scott, of Col. Pennypacker's staff.  
Lieut. Edward Fields, Co. A, 6th U. S. C. Troops.  
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Lieut. James A. Noble, Co. H, 4th U. S. C. Troops, severely.  
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Lieut. J. H. Fisher, Co. C, 3rd U. S. C. Troops, slightly.  
Lieut. H. S. Miles, Co. B, 4th U. S. C. Troops, slightly.  
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THE DISCIPLINE OF LEE'S ARMY GREATLY IMPROVED.

FROM CHARLOTTE.

Reconnaissance on James Island—Rebel Repulse—Passengers Endured.

The United States steamer Illinois arrived yesterday, from Hilton Head Feb. 12, Major H. C. Haggins commanding. Among the passengers were Capt. J. F. Anderson, Capt. J. S. Hatch, Capt. J. B. Daniels, Capt. J. Knapp, Lieut. Frank Meade and Lieut. M. May, mostly New York officers. There were also on board a number of refugees from Savannah, many of them wealthy persons.

By the Illinois we have news that on the 11th inst. Gen. Gilmore ordered a reconnaissance, by the 14th New York and two colored regiments, toward Secessionville, and after a sharp fight, lasting about an hour, drove the Rebels from their first to their second line, taking possession of the former. The expedition then returned. The loss by our troops was about sixty killed and wounded; the Rebel loss is unknown. We took, however, twenty prisoners.

THE GOLD AND PAPER MARKET.

The Engineer talks in this way:  
Notwithstanding the sale of gold by the Secretary of the Treasury at one time brought gold down to 70 to 75, it has since gone up to 80 and 85, and is now, upon evidence on Government account. Notwithstanding the amount of treasury notes was reduced by shaving off one third, prices went up, and instead of money becoming more valuable by its scarcity, the new notes are less than the old. Notwithstanding Mr. Trevelyan holds the six per cent non-taxable bonds at 135, he cannot sell them for 80.

Here we have three important facts, which it will do well for the Congress to consider. Gold is still rising and carrying up the prices of all other commodities. Shut our eyes as we may, gold is the standard, which measures our currency, and daily, as gold rises, the purchasing value of our notes falls. Notwithstanding the reduction of the currency by shaving off one-third, prices have risen, the notes have fallen, and the Treasury is empty. The six per cent non-taxable bonds, go—gold and the treasury has no money to pay its debts.

In such a state of affairs, what use is there for Congress to hesitate and dilly-dally over this scheme and that scheme? Why not remove the fact that every dollar of paper money which has not gold and silver for its base, is and ever will be a failure? Reduce the public debt to its specie value—not its present specie value, but the average value to the time—and provide for the first in specie and silver, and the paper money will not be convertible into bonds with specie-paying coupons. This is the only remedy for our financial disease.

Quackeries of one kind and another may be tried, but the patient will grow worse every day, until the true remedy is adopted. Taxation is already as high as the people can stand; they are willing to pay more, for they are ready to sacrifice all—but are they able? There is no such thing as killing the goose that laid the golden egg in these States. The power of buying those paper eggs upon which Mr. Trevelyan relies. However willing the people may be to be taxed there is a limit which cannot be passed.

In last month's persons, whose business was nominally larger than that of 1864, have found their increased income lessened them in debt for their necessary expenses. The expenses of living have increased five times what they were in 1863, but the profits of trade have made but a small increase, or perhaps none at all. The result is that the other taxes on sales and property will not permit of any increase. The point has been reached already beyond which it is impossible to go. The faster is now on the camel's back, and he cannot, however willing he may be, rise under his load. Relief must come in some way.

Let us recognize the fact that our financial nomenclature is a lie; that our Confederate so-called "dollars" are not gold and silver dollars, but mere paper and copper cents. Let us go back to the truth, let us have a decisive currency, and let the day of the figure upon which we have been floating for the last year, look truth straight in her face, in her very eyes, and reduce our debt to real dollars. Honesty is the best policy, and those whom dollars, which every body calls "cash," are not to be trusted, or to be trusted in the order of the day, as well as their share, will bring this country safely through all her trials.

The whole question of taxes, public debt, and currency has been referred to a Select Committee of Congress, and the Committee have reported that the day of the figure upon which we have been floating for the last year, look truth straight in her face, in her very eyes, and reduce our debt to real dollars. Honesty is the best policy, and those whom dollars, which every body calls "cash," are not to be trusted, or to be trusted in the order of the day, as well as their share, will bring this country safely through all her trials.

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Gen. Lee's Address to the Army and the Country.

HIGH AMBLES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 2.—In entering upon the campaign about to open, the General-in-Chief feels constrained to say to you, my dear soldiers, that the success of this campaign will depend upon the courage and discipline of the Confederate army.

With the liberty transmitted by their forefathers they have inherited the right to defend their country.

Each man has a duty to perform, and each man must be prepared to perform it.

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This was the chief success of the day's operations. The enemy soon massed his forces on our right, and Gen. Ames's Brigade was sent to that part of the line, where Gen. Terry, with Gen. Cor, directed operations.

The principal casualties occurred among the officers and men of the Colored regiments. These troops behaved bravely and secured the respect and admiration of all who witnessed their steadiness and courage. They had some fifty men wounded. One officer, Lieut. Edward Fields, Co. A, Sixth United States Colored Troops, killed, and six officers wounded—two severely.

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The object of the reconnaissance was accomplished. The wounded were all carefully attended to and removed to the base hospital, from which they will be sent by steamer to Fortress Monroe at once. Dr. Barnes, the Medical Director of the army, deserves great praise for his indefatigable labors for the care of the wounded. He is ably assisted by an excellent corps of surgeons.

Mr. E. W. Foster, the Sanitary Agent, assisted by Mr. Adams, has been of great service to the wounded, being personally present on the field and in the hospitals with his supplies of clothing and other necessary comforts at the time they were most needed. The men who intrude this excellent clarity know nothing of what they speak. Its praise is the theme of all good and conscientious officers, soldiers and surgeons of the army.

After night had closed over the scene, and our troops had retired to their camps, the enemy opened his batteries from Fort Anderson, and kept up a vigorous shelling for three-quarters of an hour. Two or three of our men only were wounded by their shells.

KILLED.

Capt. Scott, of Col. Pennypacker's staff.  
Lieut. Edward Fields, Co. A, 6th U. S. C. Troops.  
WOUNDED.

Capt. George A. Harbison, Co. H, 36th U. S. C. Tro